



# Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

## Newsletter

No.2, 2015



### **Upcoming Events** *(more details later):*

- ❖ *Our next practice sessions to mark in your diaries:*
  - *Wed 24<sup>th</sup> June – 7:30pm*
  - *Sun 12<sup>th</sup> July – 10:00am*
  - *Wed 29<sup>th</sup> July – 7:30pm*
- ❖ **STOP PRESS: OSP&D registers interest in Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Melb)**

### **Big welcome to our new Pipe Major!**

As all playing members know, Brian Symington decided to step aside as OSP&D Pipe Major this year in favour of ushering in a new generation of leaders – to keep the band fresh and progressing.

So a very warm welcome is offered to David Forbes ('79), for bravely taking on the job. David brings impressive experience to Old Scotch, having played for over 20 years in the Grade 1 City of Nunawading band in its heyday – and then continued on playing with the Australia Highlanders, as one of the top Grade 1 pipe bands in Australia. David is taking things a fair bit easier these days, and appreciates our more relaxed band atmosphere. So he's been quietly enjoying his time until now in the middle ranks of OSP&D for some time.

Naturally Brian will continue in his role as president of OSP&D, and be available to help David from time to time if needed.

David is further well assisted by our new Pipe Sergeant, Eddie Butler ('05), representing an even more recent generation in the leadership of the band. As P/M of the school band in 2005, Eddie has finished his university studies and is settling into his career as a Toorak dentist. If I can speak for all, we're all very pleased to have you two fellows willing to steer the ship for us!

☺ **God bless the Irish:** *Paddy and Mick found three hand grenades in the paddock, and decided to do the right thing by taking them in a sack to the local police station. A little worried, Mick asks: "But wot if one of 'em explodes on th' way?"*

*Paddy (always the clever one) replies: "Dat's o'right. We'll lie, an say we on'y found two!"*

### **...and a huge 'thanks'**

As evidenced by the deluge of emails responding to Brian's resignation as P/M, he has made an enormous contribution to OSP&D. In addition to being awarded the Sir Rupert Hamer award in 2013 for his lifetime of mentoring pipe bands, and recipient of an OSCA Merit Award, Brian will always be fondly remembered by all as the founding P/M of OSP&D, setting the convivial atmosphere we enjoy today.

### **Melbourne ANZAC Parade 2015**

Our performance at the Melbourne ANZAC March in this centenary year of Gallipoli, was once again a memorable event. A little wet compared to previous years, but not prohibitive for OSP&D in our new Inverness capes (*very generously funded courtesy Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation*). Notably, and reflecting the significantly larger number of marchers in this centenary year, OSP&D marched *twice* from Federation Square down St Kilda Road – rather testing our collective stamina. Once again we got great TV coverage – check out the ABC web site for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April under Melbourne ANZAC. Several nice photographs are also attached later in this newsletter. While we were pipped in the competitive aspects (*those other bands have all twigged to our strategy – simple tunes played well*), it was an enjoyable morning, finished off with our usual recovery session chatting around our very good friend, Eric.

## Royal Edinburgh Tattoo in Melbourne

Old Scotch has taken up an unexpected invitation to register our interest in performing at the forthcoming Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Melbourne, scheduled for February next year. A detailed written promotional background on the band was required (*thanks to Graham and Colin for pulling that together*), along with promising to field a minimum number of players, having a full-dress highland uniform, and a commitment of availability for a week of live-in rehearsals (*accommodation, meals and nominal daily allowance to be paid by the organisers*). While we don't yet know if our registration has been successful, we do know that several other prominent Victorian bands have declined the invitation because they couldn't meet one or more of the specified criteria. If we *are* successful, it represents a wonderful once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most of us, and a major public exposure opportunity for Old Scotch. With seven months remaining until the event, those of you who might have been thinking about dusting off their school-days playing skills now have a great reason to re-activate and come along to our next practice sessions.

☺ **God bless the Irish (2):** *Paddy's in the shower when Mary, his wife, shouts out: "Paddy, did yer find the shampoo?" Paddy shouts back: "Oi did, tank you. But dis won's for droi hair, and oi've just gone an' wet mine!"*

## Men of Malvern Performance

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, OSP&D performed at the gala dinner of the Men of Malvern, a fund-raising event for this charitable group supporting the health and welfare of men (*we all too often ignore our own health!*), and other worthwhile causes.

With characteristically thorough tuning by our new P/M, David Forbes, and the usual crisp rhythm backing from lead drummer, Scott Diener, we made for a very impressive sound indeed from 10 pipers in the acoustically favourable main ballroom of Malvern Town Hall. Reports

were that we impressed the audience so much that we may become a regular feature – not only for Men of Malvern, but also for other gigs at Malvern Town Hall. Maybe we can further bolster our uniform funding in future?

👍 *He can who thinks he can, and he can't who thinks he can't. This is an inexorable, indisputable law. Orison Marden, writer*

## Queensland Champion Drum Major

Not content with being just Victorian Champion Drum Major in 2013 and 2014, and Australian Champion in 2014, our very own OSP&D Drum Major Benjamin Casey has now added Queensland Champion Drum Major this year. Ben continues to set the bar very high for his peers, and is no doubt attracting considerable attention from other bands as a model of precision and an inspiring band leader.

☺ **My SatNav:**

*I have a little Satnav - it sits there in my car.  
A Satnav is a driver's friend - it tells you where you are.  
I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life  
It's better than the normal ones. My Satnav is my wife.*

*It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive  
"It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five".  
It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake.  
And tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake.*

*It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green  
It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene.  
It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear  
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.*

*I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device  
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice.  
It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught!  
So why don't I exchange it? - and get a quieter sort?*

*Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed.  
It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed!*

*Despite all these advantages, and my tendency  
to scoff,  
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the  
bugger off..*

### **Memorial: Right Hon Malcolm Fraser**

Our own Peter Falconer has once again featured prominently in a notable public event, leading the cortege procession for the funeral of the Right Hon Malcolm Fraser to The Scots Church in Collins Street. Peter's piping services were arranged via The Melbourne Scots, per request from Mrs Tamie Fraser in recognising Mr Fraser's many contributions as a past president and later as chieftain of Melbourne Scots for so many years. See a photo later of our 'MacCrimmon' all done up in the Fraser tartan, alongside the Rev. Douglas Robertson.

*PS. One day we really must arrange to get out to Lilydale, to check out Peter's wardrobe – it must be stuffed full of various bonnets and hackles of different styles and colours, an array of tartan ties, large quantities of differing tartan hose and flashes, and a small selection of Scottish and Irish kilts 'just in case'.....*

### **Other recent playing gigs**

OSP&D also provided a piper to the annual dinner of the **Scotch College Foundation**, held at the Australia Club in William Street, Melbourne on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. This venue is a large stone building with very high ceilings – so the acoustics are very good (almost too good!). The Foundation, as some will be aware, is the organisation through which financial support (*other than school fees*) is managed, mainly from donations and

bequests for facilities development, scholarships and bursaries.

And OSP&D also recently provided two pipers for the family funeral at Springvale Crematorium for **Mr Ross Cameron** on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June, and a memorial service for his wider friends at Toorak Uniting church on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June. While Ross was not an old Scotch boy, and the contact came via other personal contacts, we are always willing to play these kinds of occasions subject to resource availability. There is naturally a fee for these services that generally all goes into our uniform & equipment fund.

We are hopeful of a few more such gigs, as the Toorak Uniting Church administration has requested to keep us 'on their books' for any future needs.

☺ **A Scottish love story:** *An elderly scot lay dying in his bed. While resolutely suffering agonies on the way to his final moment, he becomes aware of the delicious aroma of his favourite scone wafting through the doorway. Gathering his remaining strength, he lifts himself from his bed and, leaning on the wall, he slowly shuffles his way out of the bedroom towards the kitchen.*

*There, piled on a tray, are his favourite scones. Was it heaven already? Or was it a final act of love by his devoted Scottish wife of sixty years seeing to it that he left this earth a happy man? Mustering one final great effort, he threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in rumped posture. His aged and withered hand trembled towards a scone on the edge of the tray – whereupon it was smartly smacked by the wife's wooden spoon. "Bugger off!" she said. "They're for the funeral."*

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### 2015 Committee Members:

**President:** Brian Symington - Tel: (03) 9818 8414  
**Vice-Pres:** Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334  
**Treasurer:** Graham Reid  
**Secretary:** Colin Bates  
**Committee:** Keith Heale, Benjamin Casey, Bruce Webb

**Piping Tutor:** Brian Symington – Tel: (03) 9818 8414  
**Drum Tutor:** Scott Diener – Tel: (03) 9314 4441

### 2015 Band Leaders:

**Pipe Major:** David Forbes  
**Drum Major:** Benjamin Casey  
**Lead Drummer:** Scott Diener

### New members:

**Contact:** Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334

**Webmaster:** Andrew Buick – Tel: 0408 034 919

*OSP&D marching up the forecourt of The Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne on our first run in the Melbourne ANZAC Parade 2015:*



*...and several of our loyal drum corps (looking a little chilled perhaps?)*



*The cortege procession for the funeral of Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser:  
Reverend Douglas Robertson and piper Peter Falconer (in Fraser tartan, and carrying The  
Melbourne Scots banner)*



*Photo: Jason South/Fairfax Syndication*

*OSP&D leading the Croydon RSL ANZAC Parade, 2015*



*– with P/M David Forbes (L) and P/Sgt Eddie Butler (R) leading us along Mountain Hwy.*

## OSP&D Calendar (June - July 2015)

(Note: some dates may further change – we will try to provide earliest email advice)

(*Colour Code*: Scheduled Practice dates – Band & Solo contests – OSCA/Scotch functions – External parades – Social events)

**Wednesday 24 June:** Practice 7.30pm – Pipe House

**Saturday 27 June:** **Vicpipers Solo Comps – Camperdown**; in association with WADPADI.

**(Friday 26 – Sunday 28 June):** **Robert Burns Scottish Festival – Camperdown (For information)**

**Sunday 12 July:** Practice 10:00am – Pipe House

**Wednesday 29 July:** Practice 7:30pm – Pipe House

\*A further update of our calendar for the remainder of the year will hopefully be developed in the next few weeks.

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